

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE DIVISION
1:14 CV 156**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff

v

**WALTER N. ESTES, ALAN TODD
GREENE, SAVANNAH ROSE
FORESTRY, LLC and ROY STANFORD
BRISTOL,**

Defendants.

ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the undersigned pursuant to a document filed by Defendant Walter N. Estes entitled “Joint Stipulation of Consent to Exercise Jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge” (#8). LCvR 16.1(C) sets forth the following:

(C) Filing of Joint Stipulation of Consent to Magistrate Jurisdiction. Where all parties agree to magistrate judge jurisdiction, the Joint Stipulation of Consent to Exercise of Jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge shall be filed simultaneously with either the CIAC as provided in Local Civil Rule 73.1(C), or within five (5) days of the Court’s ruling on a motion to stay.

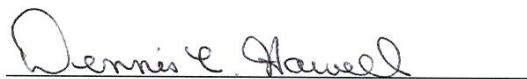
The document filed by the pro se Defendant Estes does not show there has been an agreement to the exercise of the jurisdiction of this Court. Indeed, it

appears that the document may have been meant by the Defendant to be an answer to the Complaint of the Plaintiff. Defendant Estes has written upon the document "Pleads not guilty" and then thereafter has purportedly signed his name to the document. As a result, the Court will consider the document to be an answer of Defendant Estes and not as a Joint Stipulation of Consent to Exercise Jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge. This Order will be subject to objection by the Plaintiff and other parties defendant.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the document entitled "Joint Stipulation of Consent to Exercise of Jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge" (#8) shall be considered by the Court as an **Answer** of the pro se Defendant Walter N. Estes subject to objection by the Plaintiff and other Defendants in this matter. The document shall **NOT** be considered as a Joint Stipulation of Consent to Exercise Jurisdiction by this Court.

Signed: August 7, 2014



Dennis L. Howell
United States Magistrate Judge

